

BOLSHEVIK ORGANIZERS REPORTED ACTIVE HERE

But It Pans Out That It Probably Is Only a Local Organization of International Longshoremen's Association

BY W. O. SAUNDERS

Reports that Bolsheviki are operating in this city and vicinity and organizing the colored people have alarmed many Elizabeth City business men within the past few days. The reports seem to be without foundation in fact.

One report had it that a strange white man from "somewhere in Ohio" was here a few weeks ago and held a meeting with Negro longshoremen and saw mill hands. The reports said he told them that Lincoln is dead and Booker T. Washington dead, but that Bolshevism was here to save them.

This newspaper has tried to run down these rumors and finds that they probably were inspired by the recent organization here of a Local of the International Longshoremen's Association. The Negro longshoremen in Elizabeth City recently organized a union with 55 members, known as Local No. 1019 of the International. It is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and belongs to the Hampton Roads Division of longshoremen. This union was organized, not by "a strange man from somewhere in Ohio," but by W. C. Creckmore, of Norfolk, Va.; a representative of the International Longshoremen's Association. G. W. House is president and A. White secretary of the Elizabeth City Local. Both are employed at the Norfolk Southern R. R. freight depot in this city, and both are industrious, law-abiding colored citizens.

Some pieces of Bolsheviki literature have come thru the mails to persons in Elizabeth City recently, but so far as known are of a harmless nature, devoted largely to protests against the misrepresentations of Bolshevism by American newspapers.

If Bolshevism is half as terrible as painted by the biased press of this country, it is a thing this country should arm itself against without delay. But this newspaper is not convinced that Bolshevism is such a terrible menace and reserves its judgment until more of the truth about conditions in Russia, the home of Bolshevism, is available.

Conditions in Russia are altogether different from conditions in America. With the overthrow of the government in Russia, the landowning aristocracy of Russia was overthrown. Practically all the land of Russia was in the hands of royalty. With the downfall of royalty the title of royalty to the land was automatically annulled. It was then that Bolshevism triumphed. The Bolsheviki said, "the land belongs to the people; the people shall own the land collectively; no man shall be exploited by any other man; all able-bodied individuals shall work and every man, woman and child shall be supplied with food, clothing and shelter first. After we have looked out for these primitive needs of the people, the rest of the product of our united labor shall be devoted to education, art, literature, recreation, amusement and public improvements. No man or group of men shall control the surplus products of our labor, but our surplus labor shall be given to projects in which all share the benefits. We shall give first consideration always to the child, the aged, the infirm and the expectant mother. All others must work; those who will not work shall not live upon the labor of those who do."

That's the Utopian kind of state of society the Bolsheviki are endeavoring to set up in Russia; it is the ideal of the immortal Tolstol, the greatest spiritual force Russia or any other country has produced since Christ.

To carry out this communistic or Anarchistic idea of society, the Bolsheviki set up what are known as Soviets, or councils of soldiers and workers. These Soviets are nothing more terrible than old fashioned town-hall meetings in which all the people of a respective community have a voice.

It seems that the attempt to set up this sort of state in the biggest country on earth in this bloody and chaotic age is fraught with all sorts of difficulties and disorders. There are millions in Russia who don't want that sort of thing. There are 57 varieties of Socialists in Russia, each variety having a scheme of its own. There are several groups of Anarchists, each contending for something more radical and revolutionary than Bolshevism has offered. And then there are the survivors of the old order to foment trouble. The result is more or less rioting and bloodshed. Some of the disorders cabled to this country from Russia, sound as bad to American ears as a cabled account of an American lynching sounds to European ears. And these cabled disorders in Russia may be about as indicative of the true state of affairs in Russia, as a cabled account of a Georgia lynching is indicative of the true state of affairs in the United States.

This newspaper has taken the position that if the people of Russia want Bolshevism, that is their privilege and we have no right to dictate to them or to persuade them by force of arms to adopt some other form of government they don't want. This newspaper would take the same position toward any Russian emissary who came to Elizabeth City to try to tell us how to run our

MODERN MAN IS NOT AFRAID OF THE DEVIL

You Can't Scare Him Into the Church, Neither Can You Drive Him In

Rev. J. M. Ormond, pastor of First Methodist Church South of this city, preached an unusual sermon Sunday night, on the subject of the Modern Man's Authority for Religion. And the pastor said something like this:

It is no longer possible to scare men into the church or to drive them in. The pick and the spade and the shovel; the telescope, the microscope and the spectroscopic; the telephone, the telegraph and the incandescent lamp; dynamite, Diesel motors and airplanes; all of these things have opened up new worlds to the modern man. The modern man is master of the universe and feels that mastery. He is independent and he is self assertive. He knows no fear. He is not afraid of the church, not afraid of the preacher, not afraid of the devil.

You can't scare him with visions of hell and you can't bind him with an ancient creed. His authority for religion is not to be found in these ancient forms. The ordinary phenomena of nature, the mysteries and superstitions of the past that struck terror to the hearts of ancient men and held them in everlasting fear of the unknown, have no such effect upon the modern man. He scorns your ancient creeds, he laughs at your threats of hell, and in the midst of epidemics, earthquakes, floods, droughts, famine and pestilence he stands unshaken and unafraid.

In the presence of this modern man so many churches feel awed and perplexed. New forms or religion are proposed to reach him. Learned theologians everywhere are racking their brains for an answer to the problem of this modern man. And they are in a fair way to miss the point entirely and remove themselves farther than ever from this educated citizen of the modern world.

After all, the modern man asks no higher authority for religion than his own educated consciousness of right and wrong.

The educated mind of modern man is prepared to grasp and appreciate the philosophy of Jesus Christ.

The man of other centuries accepted the religion of Jesus Christ, but the application of that religion to the everyday problems of life was beyond his unlighted ken.

The modern man is not only prepared to accept the religion of Jesus Christ, but to make immediate and creditable application of it. The scientific mind of modern man is ripe to welcome the beautiful innovation of a universal brotherhood of man.

We have been preaching the gospel of loving one another and we have failed in practice. This failure may have heretofore discouraged the modern man in pursuit of a religious ideal. But the modern man is intelligent and helpful and brave; he is ready to come into the church and help with its problems, because he knows they are his problems. Instead of making over religion to attract the modern man, we have only to attract the modern man to our need of his revitalizing and reconstructive aid and his influence in the church. The modern man needs no other authority for religion than the Christ within himself. He will accept this authority when we cease to worry him with the fears and superstitions that belong to an unlighted and illiterate past.

LATCH STRING WAS TOO HANDY FOR BURGLARS

Just Reached In, Opened the Door and Leisurely Took Away \$800 Worth of Feminine Toggery

A hole in a pane of glass enabled a thief to get hold of the latch chain of a rear door of Walker & Company's store on Poindester St. Tuesday night and gain access to the store. The burglars helped themselves to a collection of navy serge, poiret twill, crepe de chine and Georgette crepe suits and dresses to the value of near \$800. After taking the most choice and newest arrivals of women's wearing apparel the burglars or burglars, departed, leaving the door as it was found. Mrs. Walker thinks she knows who committed the robbery and Elizabeth City's crack police department has its keen experts of the case.

WANT 400 MEMBERS

The Elizabeth City W. C. T. U. is making big plans for a ten weeks' membership drive, March 20 to May 31. The Elizabeth City chapter wants 400 new members, its part of the nation wide drive for a million. "Sound the Jubilee!" is the slogan of the big drive.

Killed In Airplane Accident



THURMAN GREGORY

THURMAN GREGORY, age 24, in the aviation service of the American Expeditionary Forces was killed in an airplane accident in France on March 5th, according to a telegram received by his father, C. A. Gregory of this city, last Saturday. The father had just received a post card from his son telling him that he was packing up and expected to be home in a few weeks. Thurman Gregory was at A. & E. College when the United States entered the world war. He gave up his college career and enlisted in the service on April 5, 1917. He went overseas in September, 1917. He is the second Elizabeth City boy killed in an airplane accident in France since the signing of the armistice. Thurman Gregory was a bright, industrious, ambitious boy, counting as friends and well wishers, all who knew him. He was to have married an Elizabeth City girl upon his return to civilian life.

STATE DOG LAW NOW IN EFFECT

And You Must Keep Your Dog Up At Night

The new state wide dog law is in effect and every dog owner should familiarize himself with it. Among other things the law imposes a fine of not more than \$50 on any person who permits his or her dog to roam at night unaccompanied by the owner or some responsible person.

The law imposes a tax of \$2 on female dogs over six months old and a tax of \$1 on all male dogs over six months old. Dogs must be listed at the time and place designated for the listing of other personal property and the tax is due and payable on October 1 of each year. The sheriff is supplied with tags and gives the tax payer with a tag for each dog on which the tax is paid.

Persons who keep a dog or dogs upon which the tax is not paid after December 1 of each year is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$50.

The money derived from the dog tax is applied to the school fund in the county in which collected.

Any person is authorized to kill any mad dog or any dog caught in the act of killing sheep or other live stock or poultry.

Persons who suffer injury to their persons or property by any dog, shall upon complaint to the County Commissioners be reimbursed out of the dog fund. The damage in such cases to be awarded by a jury of three free holders to be appointed by the County Commissioners. The Commissioners are empowered to sue the owner of the offending dog if ownership can be established.

Dogs when listed for taxes become personal property and shall be governed by laws applying to other personal property.

Nothing in the new law prevents the commissioners of any county imposing a higher tax than that provided in the state law.

worlds greatest agents of advancement. Without advertising it might take twenty years to accomplish what advertising makes possible in one.

FOR SALE—Bee Hives and be surprised. R. E. Quinn Furniture Company.

AN UNUSUAL SERVICE

The country is full of good eye specialists and there are hundreds of good eye glass manufacturers, but it is worth something to Elizabeth City and vicinity to know that both can be found in this town. Dr. Hathaway is not only a reputable and skillful optometrist, but he grinds and fits glasses on his premises. This unusual service is seldom found except in much larger cities.

DR. J. D. HATHAWAY
OPTOMETRIST

Over McCabe & Grice
Elizabeth City, N. C.

A FORD MINUS LIGHTS AND A SLIPPERY ROAD

Such is the Probable Explanation of the Tragic End of Elizabeth City Salesman



W. HOWARD ARMSTRONG

Night had fallen, the road was wet and treacherous, the headlights on his automobile were not working, he was hurrying to reach the hotel at Mackey's before supper was over; in the darkness his car collided with the iron railing of a concrete bridge; the car was going at a speed of 20 to 25 miles; when he struck the railing of the bridge he gave the steering wheel a quick turn to the center of the road, the car skidded, struck the railing of another bridge about 50 feet further on, broke thru the railing plunged into a creek, pinning him underneath. Such is the probable explanation of the death of W. Howard Armstrong of this city whose lifeless body was found in his automobile in the water by the side of a bridge, about four miles from Mackey's last Friday morning.

The body was found by Edgar R. Chesson, of Mackey's, about 8 o'clock Friday morning. The accident was supposed to have happened about 7 o'clock Thursday evening, as Mr. Armstrong was seen at a store three miles beyond the scene of the accident a little before 7 o'clock.

Howard Armstrong was 28 years old and was employed as a traveling salesman for E. B. Flora & Co. of this city. He leaves a wife and one small child. His father is C. H. Armstrong, who lives near Columbia, Tyrell county.

The funeral was held at the City Road M. E. Church this city Sunday afternoon and the remains interred in Hollywood Cemetery with I. O. R. M. honors.

SHELL SHOCKED, BUT HE SEES HOME ONCE MORE

Sergt. Lee Jackson Had Tough Experience, But He Comes From France With Honors

Shell shocked and gassed in the Argonne Forest in France in the midst of the heavy fighting of Oct. 15, 1918, Sergt. Lee Jackson of Elizabeth City is home again. His nerves have been literally shot to pieces; this youth of 23 twitches and starts like an old man with St. Vitus Dance. But he says he is getting over it day by day and expects to be himself again in a few short weeks.

Sergt. Jackson was with the Medical Detachment of the 102nd Ammunition Train of the 27th Division. On the night of Oct. 15 he was with an outfit carrying munitions to the infantry in the Argonne. A big high explosive shell from the German lines exploded in 20 feet of him. He dropped unconscious, but regained consciousness in a few minutes; he wasn't even hit by particles of flying dirt cast up by the exploding shell. But the next day he began to feel the effects of the shock. A medical examination also revealed that he had been gassed. He recovered from the gas in a few days, but recovery from shell shock is not so rapid.

Sergt. Jackson came home with the French Croix de Guerre with an accompanying bronze star for distinguished service. It happened on the night of Oct. 3 there was an explosion in a dugout in his vicinity and the cries of men in the dugout were heard. Sergt. Jackson with some companions located the dugout, burst open the door and rescued a French lieutenant and several men who had been blinded by the explosion and were in danger of being burned to death.

"AIN'T THIS HELL!" SAYS DISAPPOINTED GROOM

He Ready, She Ready, Hour Late, But Marriage License Not To Be Had Till Morning

Tantalus, son of Zeus, consigned to a lake of water which he could not drink, tempted by luscious fruits which hung always just beyond his reach, wasn't in it with some of these Virginia swains who bring their sweethearts to Elizabeth City in the middle of the night to get married, only to find that they have to sit up all night because the Register of Deeds won't give them a marriage license until morning.

"Ain't this hell!" exclaimed Harry W. Openhaver, 28 years old, a soldier, from Newport News, who alighted here with his sweetheart Tuesday night and was told they couldn't get a license till morning. Miss Mamie Eugene Keith, 20 years old, also from Newport News, who was the bride to be, didn't say the same thing her man said, but she certainly didn't look like she thought her predicament altogether heavenly.

Register of Deeds Munden has quit issuing marriage licenses at night, since Representative Saunders separated the office of Justice of the Peace from the Register of Deeds office. When Mr. Munden could issue the license and tie the knot too, he would serve a couple any hour of the night. Now that he doesn't get the fees for tying the knot he doesn't give a rap whether they get married or sit up all night.

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS IN THE OLD NORTH STATE

Federal Government Agency Gives Publicity to Undesirable Facts, But That Doesn't Worry North Carolina Legislators

BY W. O. SAUNDERS

The Washington, D. C. correspondent of The Public, (New York) has given the nation some very unwholesome facts concerning North Carolina. This New York weekly says:—

"In America the notion prevails that the slums are all in the city, and that dirt and disease are necessarily allied to tenement houses. Some facts uncovered by the Children's Bureau may be of interest to those who still fancy that rural conditions are necessarily healthful. The facts were developed in a survey of two typical North Carolina counties, where 487 families were visited, 129 Negro and 358 native white of native born American parentage.

"The mothers in these North Carolina counties married young, had large families and at the same time worked hard in the fields and on their own work. The husbands are using improved farm machinery, but the women still struggle along washing the family's clothes at a spring remote from the house and doing the family cooking in the big open fire place. Sanitary arrangements are primitive. In one county only twenty-five families had any toilet facilities. Water is usually brought from a distant well or spring, frequently contaminated.

"In one fourth of the homes there were five or more persons to every sleeping room. Instances were by no means rare where as many as ten persons were found in a single room. This did not occur in a community of foreigners or in a city slum or among children of drunks. Ninety-five per cent. live in the country or towns of 4,000 or less. The state has been dry since 1909.

"We talk glibly about giving the immigrant mother some knowledge of American conditions and of teaching her American standards of child rearing. Might it not be well to bring some knowledge of the conditions of the mothers of North Carolina and other States where similar conditions exist? Many arguments have been presented during the past session of the United States for the extension of suffrage to women. None has been so powerful as the simple narrative of Miss Julia Lathrop, Chief of the Children's Bureau.

"Who will speak for the inarticulate children of North Carolina? Their fathers have spoken for them for a hundred years, and one-fourth of all the children under fourteen years of age employed in manufacturing and mechanical establishments in the United States are in that State. The third largest number of all the children between 14 and 16 years of age working more than eight hours a day are in the same State. Twenty per cent. of the total wage earners employed in manufacturing and mining are under 22 percent of all the persons employed in cotton mills are between 12 and 15 years of age; 41 per cent. of all employed in silk mills are under 16; 28 percent of the children employed in knitting mills are under 16.

"Two-thirds of the white children and three-fourths of the Negro children from 5 to 15 years of age in the country district have been in the country, cutting and harvesting the crop. In the more remote backwoods district nine-tenths of the children are so engaged. Many women found working from sun to sun. The reason for this is that child labor is frequently cheaper than machine labor. One father of eight children said that he did not buy a corn planter because he already had eight."

"These children should be in school instead of at work. Between the ages of ten and twenty, from one-tenth to one-third of the children are unable to read or write, although the law makes attendance at school compulsory. If the babies and children of North Carolina are to have an opportunity to live down dirt, bad food, foul air, and exploitation, the women as well as the men of North Carolina must be their spokesmen."

AUTOS MUST PAY HIGHER LICENSE

\$10 to \$20 on Passenger Cars and \$12.50 to \$65 and More on Trucks

THE INDEPENDENT has received so many inquiries concerning the higher license taxes on automobiles, that it reprints that section of the new State Highway Act which fixes the license fees effective June 30, 1919. Auto owners, dealers, garage men and others should clip this information and have it handy. Here is the law:—

"That a license or registration fee shall be charged and collected annually on motor vehicles registered under the provisions of this act; on each motor vehicle, except motor trucks and motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers for hire and motorcycles, as follows: On each motor vehicle having a rating of twenty-six horse power or less, a registration license fee of ten dollars; on each motor vehicle having a rating of more than twenty-six horse power, but not more than thirty horse power, a registration or license fee of fifteen dollars; on each motor vehicle having a rating of more than thirty horse power a registration or license fee of twenty dollars; that each motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers for hire shall carry a special 'service' license to be furnished by the Secretary of State for which the license fee shall be twice the amount fixed for like motor vehicles for private use. The annual license or registration fee for a motorcycle shall be five dollars. The annual registration or license fee for motor trucks shall be as follows: On each motor truck with a carrying capacity of not more than one ton twelve dollars and fifty cents; on each motor truck with a carrying capacity of more than one ton but not more than two tons, twenty-five dollars; on each motor truck with a carrying capacity of more than two tons but not more than three tons, forty dollars; on each motor truck with a carrying capacity of more than three tons but not more than four tons, sixty-five dollars; on each motor truck with a carrying capacity of more than four tons, one hundred dollars; on each trailer, ten dollars for the first ton carrying capacity, and twenty dollars for each additional ton; Provided, that any applicant for the registration of any motor vehicle on or after the first day of March of each year shall be required to pay for said registration a license fee for the balance of the year ending June thirtieth only one-half of the fee levied in this section; Provided, further, that no county, city or town, shall charge any license or registration fee on motor vehicles in excess of one dollar per annum: Provided, further, that no motor truck with a carrying capacity of more than five and one-half tons nor any motor truck with steel tires shall be licensed or allowed to be used upon the State highway system. The method of computing the horse power of motor vehicles shall be the formula adopted by the Society of Automobile Engineers.

"That at 2 o'clock ante-meridian of the last Sunday in March of each year the standard time of each zone shall be advanced one hour, and at 2 o'clock ante-meridian of the last Sunday in October of each year the standard time of each zone shall be retarded one hour be returned to the astronomical time of the degree of longitude governing each zone respectively."

AN OLD TIME SINGING SCHOOL NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT

An Old Time Singing School, instructed by Miss Virgil Banks, in the role of Mistress Plunkett, assisted by Hon. J. Bushrod Leigh in the role of Squire Bellybuster, will be given at the High School Auditorium Friday night, March 28. This entertainment is being staged under the auspices of the Parsonage Society of First M. E. Church South and the cast of singers includes the cream of the vocal musical and amateur theatrical talent of the town. The price of admission will be 35 and 50 cents.

The statistics show that up to the age of 10 the attendance of children in all three groups is about the same, but after the tenth year there is a falling off in school attendance in both the country districts and the mill districts. The statistics show that the children in town always have the best of it in health and physical development. The country child holds its own with the child in town until it reaches the age of 12 or 14 years; at that time the child in the clean, healthy town is attaining growth by leaps and bounds; and right at that time the child in the mill district and the child in the backwoods begin to lag and fall far below the more favored child in the town.

In the face of these irrefutable indictments there was an attempt made in the recent session of the N. C. General Assembly to exempt the children of rural communities in North Carolina from the provisions of a six months compulsory school law. Learned legislators wanted to give the rural child four months schooling at the most, because a six months school term might interfere with the picking of the cotton crop. And the farmer element in the legislature was as bitterly opposed to a decent child labor law as was the

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